

TOTNES BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON SATURDAY 5th July 2025 AT 14.00 PM

PRESENT

Tudor Joseph, Mike Hannaford, Lynda Joseph, Ken Law, John Derbyshire, John Shepherd, Paul Eames, Paddy Harris, Gary Hooper, Graham Sowerby, Lydia Stocks, Graham Webb

1. APOLOGIES

None

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 19th APRIL

These were accepted as a true record

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. TREASURER'S REPORT, Subscriptions for new members

4.1 Report

Mike reported that the club has £7,181.94p which includes the £1,000 grant for equipment. There is also £10,000 in the clubs' investment account, which by the 19th April meeting had accrued £97 in interest.

The bar takings in the last year was £3,244 of which the profit was £2,000. The bar stock is low at present and there will be a large bill to replenish it.

£4,451 was spent on improving the premises recently, on bar alterations and re-decorating.

The subscriptions from 1st October 2024 to 5th July this year amounted to £7,925 of which £1,000 are affiliation costs. There are currently 83 paid up members.

4.2 Review of subscription rates

Following some discussion it was agreed that the following subscription rates should apply:

Younger than 18 years	£10 – which remains the same
18 to 24 year olds	£40 – a new rate
Those applicants new to bowling	£30 – which remains the same, however the secretary and Graham S were authorised by the committee to be given some flexibility in certain cases
25 years and above	£111 – which remains the same
Social members	£10

Retrospective discounts may be made in some circumstances, e.g. if an applicant joins the club in July.

Although approved by the committee, these figures need to be agreed by the whole membership at the next AGM.

5. PLAYING SECTION MATTERS

5.1 Fixtures

The season is well under way with most fixtures taking place as originally booked.

There have been a small number of postponements which I have left to the team organisers to sort out. My experience is that if a 3rd element is involved it prolongs the rearrangement.

We are now moving into the period where we have a series of tourist matches coming up. Recently we have been asked to move a date to help another club who can't fulfil their tourist fixture. Unfortunately we have an away league match on the same day so there was concern we couldn't fulfil the team numbers. I have offered the option of the visiting club to make use of our green if they wished to play a game but to date I have had no response from TLH leisure. If this comes about we will need someone to look after them and take their fees and serve the bar.

I have already taken a tourist booking for 2026 for the East Sussex Bowls Presidents tour.

I have been conscious that on a couple of occasions we have had matches in both the Over 55's morning games together with an MDL league game in the evening. Unfortunately these clashes have been because of other pressures on our availability and other clubs lack of availability plus the additional matches in the Over 55's and entering the Riviera League at a late stage. I do try to avoid double booking matches but with the additional pressures some clashes are inevitable.

For future fixtures we will hopefully have all competitions known so that the fixtures can allow for an easier season.

5.2 Other Matters

You will be aware that we successfully received a grant of £1000 from Totnes Town Council following my bid for a grant from the community fund.

I'm currently reviewing other local options as this involves a lot less work in making an application.

There are options from South Hams District Council where the local councillors each have a fund to allocate but I am not sure whether we should make this approach bearing in mind our current negotiations regarding our water supply. Any views would be appreciated.

Devon County Council also has a community and sports fund which might be my next port of call once I can determine where I can make the first point of contact.

Other possible applications will be looked at but from my research the need to present a particular case of need to support local communities or sport is essential.

Men's A team – at the time of writing, the A team were currently 2nd out of 8 clubs in the third division

Men's B Team – and, the B team are 7th again out of 8 clubs in the fourth division

Ladies – The Ladies have got through to the Quarter finals in the 4-3-2-1 Competition, the Semi finals of the Grace Mathews and mid table of the South Devon Ladies Bowling League which is pleasing as we went up a division last season.

6. BAR / CATERING MATTERS

Wendy said that some new washing up brushes are needed.
The price for a bottle of water will be reduced from £1.50 to £1.00p
Crisps will be reduced from £1 to £0.50p

7 GREEN MAINTENANCE

John D has approached two companies for a price just to find the inlet pipe.
Max quoted £250 +VAT. The majority of his company's work is based on green maintenance
Chris in Paignton has quoted £50 an hour. His company does this type of work all the time.

If a new system is required then the Council will pay for the majority of the cost occurring within the boundary of the clubs' fence. Gary has spoken to John Birch and Andrew (Law?) in this regard.

One or two local clubs have 3,500+ litre bowsers installed.

Our clubs' tank is connected to the water supply in the kitchen and the pipe runs down the side of the green to the sheds.

It would cost £12,000 without the groundwork, plus £1,600 to £1,700.

The existing bowser and pump cost £170. Gary will get a quote to ensure that it would be a similar cost of providing a second system.

So, as it stands, the green needs manual watering after 7pm. Mike will send out an email asking for volunteers to do this. This will need doing each Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Graham W suggested getting a Pictcare seep hose feeder, which he has used in the past. The cost of this would be around £145, and the pump needs to be running all the time.
The current pump in the pump house is located off site, in or near the leat.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Club constitution – new applications

The constitution is out of date in this area.

Currently, for new applications from people who want to become members, a copy of the application has to be put on the club notice board for 2 weeks to allow current members to raise any objections.

This needs to be changed to the present method of the secretary sending an email with a copy of the application, and allowing 7 days to make any objection. Once the application has been approved, a bill will be sent to the person, and as soon as the money is received they can play.

The application form needs to be amended by adding the class of membership which is being applied for. And for under 18's a space for a parental signature is needed.

8.2 Dogs

Dogs will be allowed into the club, providing they are on a lead and under control.
They will not be allowed onto the green.

A sign is needed to display this information.

8.3 Smoking

There is currently one area of the grounds where smoking is allowed. Another area is needed at the diagonally opposite corner of the grounds.

8.4 The microwave

The microwave keeps going wrong and is hardly used, therefore it will be disposed of.

8.5 Long life milk

It was agreed that 1 or more cartons of long life milk should be kept in the fridge for those occasions when fresh milk has run out.

8.6 Adele from the Baker's Estates

Adele asked if she could come and take some photographs of the playing area as well as a video. This has been completed.

8.7 Lounge carpet

Plans for a replacement carpet in the clubhouse have been put on hold until there are sufficient funds to pay for it

8.8 MDL scores system

The MDL committee has developed a new online reporting system whereby league results can be entered immediately after matches have finished. The current test is being run with teams in division one only. It is expected that a further test will be run with the premier division in 2026 with a full roll out with all divisions in 2027.

In the meantime results need to be reported using the current card system. Ian Bristow will be introducing this next year.

8.9 Ordering drinks

A new system for ordering drinks is now available. Instead of players ordering 32 drinks at the same time after matches have finished, a new form has been created whereby orders for drinks are taken in advance on a new form, one for each rink, and those drinks will be already poured for players as they leave the rink.

It is at the discretion of whoever is running the bar whether this system is used or not.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

No date was set.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting.

Signed by the Chairman

Date